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Compilation on Cameroon

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a compilation of information contained in reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies[1–2]

2. The Committee on the Rights of the Child welcomed the ratification in 2013 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.[3]

3. The same Committee urged Cameroon to fulfil its reporting obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, the report of which is overdue as of 4 February 2015.[4]

4. The Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recommended that Cameroon consider acceding to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. The Committee on the Rights of the Child also recommended that Cameroon accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.[5]

5. In 2014, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women encouraged Cameroon to consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.[6]

6. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination encouraged Cameroon to ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and

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Members of Their Families, the Convention against Discrimination in Education, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.[7]

7. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) encouraged Cameroon to ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education.[8]

III. National human rights framework[9]

8. **The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms be provided with adequate resources to carry out its mandate effectively and in full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).**[10]

9. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Cameroon establish an appropriate body at a high interministerial level with a clear mandate and sufficient authority to coordinate all activities related to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and ensure that the coordinating body was provided with the necessary resources for its effective operation.[11]

10. The Independent Expert on minority issues stated that the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms had a valuable role to play in the protection of minority rights, which could be further enhanced by a dedicated unit and the inclusion in its work of training on minority and indigenous rights for authorities, including for public officials, the police, gendarmes and judicial authorities.[12]

11. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Cameroon to finalize the revision of the Civil Code, ensuring that the provisions related to children's rights were harmonized with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.[13]

12. The Independent Expert on minority issues urged the Government to take measures to fully record and gather regular social and economic data, including in census surveys, that would clearly map the country's diversity and help to reveal the specific challenges facing particular population groups. In addition to gender disaggregation, data should be disaggregated on the basis of ethnicity, religion and language, and individuals should be able to self-identify as belonging to their chosen ethnic and linguistic group, and faith.[14]

IV. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Cross-cutting issues

1. Equality and non-discrimination[15]

13. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Cameroon redouble its efforts in favour of the full and effective implementation of the official policy of bilingualism, and ensure that the English-speaking population was not subject to inequality, particularly in the areas of employment, education and judicial procedures.

14. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women encouraged Cameroon to revise the Nationality Code in order to ensure that women and men had equal rights to nationality.[16] The Committee was concerned about the different conditions for women and men with regard to the acquisition, transmission and retention of Cameroonian nationality.[17]

15. The Committee on the Rights of the Child welcomed the adoption of article 242 of the amended Penal Code prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, sex or health status.[18]

16. The Committee on the Rights of the Child remained concerned about the persistent discrimination against children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations.[19] It referred to the rejection by Cameroon of the identity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children and to the discrimination experienced by such children. It urged Cameroon to adopt and implement comprehensive legislation to protect all children against discrimination.[20]

17. The Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Cameroon adopt measures to eliminate any discrimination against the most vulnerable and neglected groups of women, including older women, women with disabilities, pastoralist women and refugee women.[21]

18. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination noted the absence or small number of complaints or legal actions brought by victims of racial discrimination.[22]

2. Development, the environment, and business and human rights

19. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Cameroon take note of target 16.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms and that it take immediate measures to strengthen institutional capacities to effectively detect cases of corruption and prosecute the perpetrators.[23]

20. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Cameroon establish a regulatory framework to deal with the impact of the business sector on children's rights to ensure that their activities did not negatively affect human rights or endanger environmental or other standards and ensure effective implementation and monitoring of international and national environmental and health standards.[24]

3. Human rights and counter-terrorism

21. Referring to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Nigeria (S/2017/304) citing the abduction of children by Boko Haram, the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Cameroon develop and implement a national strategy to coordinate the expedited release of children detained on the basis of unfounded evidence of association with terrorist groups, amend counter-terrorism Law No. 2014/228 of 23 December 2014 so that the jurisdiction of military tribunals did not apply to children, and establish community-based support structures to reintegrate children associated with armed groups, promoting their recovery and social reintegration in a safe environment.[25]

B. Civil and political rights

1. Right to life, liberty and security of person[26]

22. In November 2017, several special procedure mandate holders warned the Government of Cameroon to engage with representatives of the anglophone population in a meaningful political dialogue and halt renewed violence in the south-west and north-west, where the country's anglophone minority was reportedly suffering worsening human rights violations. They urged the Government to adopt all necessary measures consistent with Cameroon's human rights obligations to end the cycle of violence. Up to 17 people had reportedly been killed and dozens wounded and arrested in demonstrations in the country's anglophone regions since 1 October 2017. The special procedure mandate holders were disturbed by reports of a series of measures taken by the national authorities, including curfews, a ban on public meetings, and other restrictions aimed at preventing peaceful protests. Excessive use of force by the security services, injuries, mass arrests, arbitrary detentions, torture and other ill-treatment had been reported.[27]

23. The special procedure mandate holders asked the Government to take effective measures to prosecute and sanction all those responsible for such violations. The appeal for

action came nearly a year after other United Nations human rights experts publicly urged the Government to halt violence against the anglophone minority, following reports that anglophone protesters in Buea and Bamenda had suffered undue force. The special procedure mandate holders also denounced any use of violence against members of the security forces, after reports that several had been killed. Since December 2016, the special procedure mandate holders have repeatedly raised concerns directly with the Government of Cameroon, and continue to monitor and seek clarification of the alleged human rights violations in the north-west and south-west of the country.[28]

24. In December 2017, the Human Rights Committee gave the Cameroonian judicial authorities 180 days to release Mr. Zogo Andela, who has been detained at Yaoundé Central Prison since March 2011.

25. The Committee against Torture recommended that Cameroon comply fully with its obligation to ensure that all allegations of serious crimes and abuses committed by Boko Haram and certain State forces, including extrajudicial, arbitrary and summary executions and enforced disappearances, are the subject of an impartial investigation and that those responsible are punished.[29]

2. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

26. The Human Rights Committee raised its concern at the alleged existence of secret detention facilities that were not subject to oversight of any kind.[30]

27. The Committee against Torture recommended that Cameroon put an end to the practice of incommunicado detention and ensure that no one is detained in secret or unauthorized places, including unlisted military detention centres. Cameroon should investigate the existence of such places and detainees should be released or transferred to official places of detention.[31]

28. The Committee against Torture stressed that the State should ensure that all allegations of excessive use of force, extrajudicial executions, ill-treatment and arbitrary arrest by State officials during or after the demonstrations in the anglophone region are the subject of an impartial investigation, that those responsible are prosecuted and, if found guilty, punished, and that victims obtain redress.[32]

29. The Committee against Torture requested Cameroon to put in place, as soon as possible, a programme to protect witnesses and victims of torture, as provided for in the National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Cameroon (2015–2019).[33]

30. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Cameroon to urgently raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to an internationally accepted standard, to prosecute police officers who had arbitrarily detained children and demanded bribes for their release and legal aid lawyers who had demanded informal fees, and to expeditiously establish specialized juvenile court facilities and procedures, presided over by designated specialized judges.[34]

31. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Cameroon ensure equal access to justice for minorities and indigenous peoples, in particular by reducing the distances between national courts and the areas where they live and by establishing official services for interpretation into their languages.[35]

32. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about the lack of effective access to justice for women.[36]

3. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life[37]

33. The Human Rights Committee urged Cameroon to lift any unnecessary restrictions on the freedom of assembly and the freedom to demonstrate, in particular for members of the country's English-speaking minority.[38]

34. The Independent Expert on minority issues recommended that Cameroon strengthen legislative and policy measures to ensure the political participation of groups that were currently underrepresented in political and decision-making bodies at the local, regional

and national levels, including the Pygmy, Mbororo and other communities. Existing measures, including those relating to electoral processes, should be reviewed and, where necessary, revised or clarified and their implementation evaluated to ensure that they were fit for their intended purpose. The Independent Expert urged the State to consider the recommendations made at the second Forum on Minority Issues in that regard.[39]

35. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Cameroon adopt concrete measures to strengthen the participation of minorities and indigenous peoples in political and public life, including through the establishment of quotas.[40]

36. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Cameroon implement temporary special measures in various forms, such as outreach and support programmes, quotas and other proactive and results-oriented measures aimed at achieving equality of women with men in the public and private sectors.[41]

37. UNESCO noted that Cameroon had suspended Internet services in the country's Northwest and Southwest regions after a series of protests that had resulted in violence and the arrest of community leaders.[42] UNESCO encouraged Cameroon to introduce a freedom of information law in accordance with international standards and to ensure freedom of expression on the Internet.[43]

38. UNESCO stated that there had been numerous reported cases of prosecutions and imprisonments in violation of freedom of expression and the right to a fair trial. UNESCO recommended that Cameroon ensure that journalists were able to practise their profession in a free and safe environment, and investigate all attacks on journalists.[44]

39. UNESCO indicated that Cameroon had not submitted its national report on the implementation of the Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers. UNESCO recommended that Cameroon report on any legal provisions and or regulatory frameworks enacted to ensure that scientific researchers had the right to work in a spirit of respect for their human rights.[45]

4. Prohibition of all forms of slavery

40. In view of the large numbers of children still being exploited in commercial agriculture and in domestic work, the Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Cameroon to protect children working as domestic servants and to ensure their rehabilitation and social integration, particularly in the context of the implementation of the national action plan.[46]

41. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the limited number of prosecutions and convictions of perpetrators of trafficking in persons and about the insufficient knowledge and awareness among women on the risks of trafficking and on the exploitation of migrant women, including "Internet brides".[47]

42. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Cameroon increase international, regional and bilateral cooperation with countries of origin, transit and destination to prevent trafficking through information exchange and that it harmonize legal procedures aimed at the prosecution and punishment of traffickers.[48]

5. Right to privacy and family life

43. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the existence of discriminatory legal provisions, including those relating to polygamy, the husband's role as the head of household, the administration of family property and of the wife's property by the husband and the lower minimum age of marriage for women than for men. The Committee recommended that Cameroon repeal all discriminatory provisions relating to marriage and family relations.[49]

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

44. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned at the allegations that certain companies paid unequal wages on the basis of ethnic origin.[50]

45. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the exploitative and hazardous conditions of work faced by women and girls working in plantations and in the mining sector, the exploitation, abuse and deprivation of liberty of women domestic workers, and the lack of legislation specifically protecting domestic workers. It recommended that Cameroon consider ratifying the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).[51]

2. Right to social security

46. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about the concentration of women in the informal sector without legal and social protection or other benefits and about the delay in adopting the reform of the social protection system.[52]

47. In view of the high rate of families living in poverty (39.9 per cent) in Cameroon, which was exacerbated in the rural areas (55 per cent), and the high number of workers who did not benefit from any form of social protection, the Committee on the Rights of the Child drew attention to target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals on implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all and recommended that Cameroon establish a universal childcare benefit in order to reduce children's poverty.[53]

3. Right to an adequate standard of living

48. UNHCR referred to the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food to take steps to address chronic food insecurity and malnutrition among the refugee population.[54]

4. Right to health[55]

49. Taking note of Sustainable Development Goal 3, the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Cameroon ensure a sufficient number of accessible health centres and hospitals equipped with adequate resources throughout the country, and that it increase investment in seasonal malaria prevention and ensure sanctions against health workers who demanded payment of informal fees for the disbursement of free malaria treatment.[56]

50. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Cameroon decriminalize abortion in all circumstances and repeal section 339 (2) of the amended Penal Code to remove the requirement to obtain certification from the prosecutor before attaining a legal abortion.[57]

51. The same Committee recommended that Cameroon address the incidence of drug abuse by children and adolescents, in particular Tramadol, by, inter alia, providing children and adolescents with accurate information and education on life skills for the prevention of substance abuse, including of tobacco and alcohol, and develop accessible and youth-friendly drug dependency treatment and harm reduction services.[58]

52. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the persistent high rate of maternal mortality, partly due to the shortage in blood supplies and the lack of effective implementation of the 2003 law on blood transfusion, and about the lack of access to basic health-care services, including essential obstetric care, in particular in rural areas.[59]

5. Right to education[60]

53. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned at the closure of schools owing to insecurity in the Far North, North, East, Adamaoua, Northwest and Southwest regions; and at the low school enrolment rate of girls and, particularly, high dropout rates in

secondary school owing to the prevalence of sexual harassment by teachers, child marriage and adolescent pregnancy. The Committee noted the disproportionate impact on indigenous, refugee and asylum-seeking children, and children living in remote areas, of the requirement to produce a birth certificate to qualify for the secondary school entrance examination.[61]

54. Taking note of Sustainable Development Goal 4, the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Cameroon ensure the safety of children and school personnel and take measures to urgently reopen schools in security-affected regions, and that it intensify efforts to eliminate child marriage and facilitate the re-entry of young mothers into the regular school programme, free from stigma.[62]

55. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the high rate of female illiteracy. It recommended that Cameroon ensure that girls and young women had de facto equal access to all levels of education and that Cameroon retain girls in school.[63]

56. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed concerned about the high cost of and unequal access to primary education. It recommended that Cameroon take measures to ensure that primary education was free and equally accessible to all children. It also urged Cameroon to expand access to higher education in order to provide the labour market with the skills essential to the country's growth and to reduce the dropout rate.[64]

57. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned at discrimination against indigenous children and the lack of strategy to ensure appropriate curricula for minorities. It urged Cameroon to ensure that children of minority groups had equal access to education without discrimination, and introduce curricula recognizing their way of life and culture.[65]

58. UNESCO encouraged Cameroon to actively engage in the process of ratifying the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education, calling upon UNESCO for technical assistance, as required.[66]

59. UNESCO observed a number of institutional difficulties affecting the management of the education sector, including fragmentation among the different ministries responsible for education. It recommended the establishment of a single ministry with responsibility for national education.[67]

60. UNESCO indicated that Cameroon lacked the infrastructure necessary to allow unimpeded access to schools. It encouraged Cameroon to make the necessary investments in educational infrastructure. [68]

61. UNESCO welcomed the reform of the Penal Code of 2016 aimed at combating early and forced marriages, which obstruct the exercise of the right to education. It recommended that Cameroon continue and step up its efforts to eliminate child marriage and child labour, which are major obstacles to the realization of the right to education.[69]

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women[70]

62. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Cameroon ensure the effective implementation of article 356 of the Penal Code criminalizing perpetrators of forced or early marriages, adopt legal provisions specifically criminalizing female genital mutilation, breast ironing and discriminatory widowhood rites, and include adequate sanctions for perpetrators of such acts. The Committee urged Cameroon to arrest, prosecute and punish perpetrators of kidnapping of children, including young girls, for the sale of organs or magic or religious practices.[71]

63. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about the limited number of investigations and prosecutions in cases of domestic violence. It urged Cameroon to investigate effectively all cases of violence against women

and prosecute and adequately punish perpetrators. It recommended that Cameroon adopt a comprehensive law on violence against women, repeal the legal provision exempting rapists from punishment if they subsequently married the victim, ensure that women victims of domestic violence had full access to protection orders and legal remedies instead of mediation, and provide assistance to victims including medical and psychological support.[72]

64. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about the precarious situation of women living in rural areas, who accounted for the majority of women in the State party and who were disproportionately affected by the lack of participation in decision-making.[73]

65. According to UNHCR, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the lack of adequate protection and assistance for disadvantaged groups of women, and recommended that Cameroon ensure their access without discrimination to employment, education, housing and health.[74]

2. Children[75]

66. While noting the adoption of Law No. 2016/007 of 12 July 2016 relating to the Penal Code, section 356, which criminalized "forced marriage" and increased the penalty where the victims were under 18 years of age, the Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Cameroon to finalize the revision of the Civil Code and establish the minimum age for marriage as 18 for both girls and boys.[76]

67. The Committee on the Rights of the Child welcomed the revision of the legal and institutional framework to ameliorate the birth registration process, including the establishment of the National Civil Status Office and the extension of the time limit to declare births. However, it was concerned about the low level of birth registration, particularly in rural areas.[77]

68. Taking note of target 16.9 of the Sustainable Development Goals on providing legal identity for all, including birth registration, the Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Cameroon to eliminate all fees for birth registration and certificate issuance, and increase the financial, technical and human resources of the National Civil Status Office to increase its accessibility throughout the State party.[78]

69. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was also concerned that children born out of wedlock must fulfil additional conditions to acquire Cameroonian nationality and that the acquisition of nationality may be denied to children with disabilities. The Committee recommended that Cameroon amend the Nationality Code to repeal discriminatory provisions relating to the acquisition of nationality by children born out of wedlock and relating to the naturalization of children with disabilities.[79]

70. Taking note of target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals on ending all forms of violence against children, the Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Cameroon to promptly issue guidance to the police on the child's right to freedom from all types of violence.[80] In that context, the Committee also urged Cameroon to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in law in all settings, including in the home and institutions, and to ensure that all cases of corporal punishment of children were investigated and perpetrators were prosecuted.[81]

71. The Committee on the Rights of the Child welcomed the adoption of sections 297 and 302-1 of the amended Penal Code, which, respectively, provide that a rapist cannot be exonerated by marrying his victim, and criminalize sexual harassment, imposing imprisonment where the victim is a minor and considering a perpetrator's educational authority over the victim as an aggravating factor.[82]

72. However, the Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern that over 22 per cent of girls aged 15–19 had experienced sexual violence, notably within the context of child marriage, and that consequently the high HIV/AIDS rate of that group persisted.[83]

73. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Cameroon strictly enforce sections 277-1 and 277-2 of the amended Penal Code, which criminalize genital

mutilation and interference with organ growth, respectively; and that it finalize and adequately resource the updated national action plan to combat female genital mutilation and ensure its implementation through the platform for collaboration between the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family, and the Council of Imams and Muslim Dignitaries, in coordination with the local committees established to fight that practice.[84]

74. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Cameroon consider ratifying the Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance, of 23 November 2007, the Protocol on the Law Applicable to Maintenance Obligations, of 23 November 2007, and the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.[85]

3. Persons with disabilities[86]

75. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Cameroon expedite the issuance of the draft decree implementing Law No. 2010/002 of 13 April 2010 on the promotion and protection of persons with disabilities, ensuring that it requires the provision of reasonable accommodation.[87]

4. Minorities and indigenous peoples

76. The Human Rights Committee urged Cameroon to ensure equal treatment of members of the English-speaking minority and safeguard their rights to freedom of expression and assembly.[88]

77. The Independent Expert on minority issues remained concerned about the poor access to national identity cards for minority and indigenous communities, which had an impact on the enjoyment of a wide range of services and social benefits. The Independent Expert welcomed the issuing of free national identity cards to members of the Pygmy and Mbororo communities.[89]

78. In view of the discrimination experienced by the Pygmies and the Mbororo peoples in Cameroon and the absence of any law protecting their rights, the Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Cameroon to allocate adequate resources for the implementation of the national action plan for indigenous peoples, and to accelerate efforts to promote the education of indigenous children and counteract the extremely high illiteracy rate of the indigenous peoples through the construction of adequately resourced schools in their communities and the delivery of culturally appropriate curricula. The same Committee also stressed the need to ensure indigenous peoples' access to social services and benefits by facilitating birth registration and the issuance of national identity cards.[90] The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination made similar recommendations.[91]

79. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Cameroon, in consultation with indigenous peoples, establish in domestic legislation the right of indigenous peoples to own, use, develop and control their lands, territories and resources, and that it guarantee indigenous peoples just and fair compensation for lands, territories and natural resources confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.[92]

5. Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons[93]

80. While noting that conflict in neighbouring countries had resulted in over a half a million refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons arriving in Cameroon, mostly residing in the East, North, Far North and Adamaoua regions, UNHCR expressed concerns with regard to forced returns of Nigerian refugees, without their refugee status or the voluntary nature of their return having been verified.[94]

81. UNHCR urged Cameroon to ensure that persons in need of protection had access to asylum procedures, and that all returns to Nigeria were voluntary and were carried out in dignity and with respect for the principle of non-refoulement.[95] The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination raised similar concerns and also recommended that Cameroon ensure to refugees alternatives to detention and enable refugees to fully enjoy their right to work.[96]

82. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Cameroon ensure that instances of mass forced return did not occur, and that it strictly enforce the absolute prohibition of refoulement.

83. The Committee against Torture recommended that Cameroon redouble its efforts to systematically train all police officers, military personnel and border officials serving in the far north of Cameroon on asylum procedures and respect for the principle of non-refoulement.[97]

84. UNHCR noted that Cameroon did not issue identity documents to refugees, which subjected refugees to risk of arbitrary detention and limited freedom of movement. UNHCR encouraged Cameroon to establish appropriate registration procedures and issue documentation to refugees in order to enhance their protection.[98]

85. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination requested that Cameroon devote particular attention to the situation of refugee women and girls, who could experience double discrimination.[99]

86. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Cameroon ensure that refugee women and internally displaced women did not face discrimination and that it consider ratifying the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the Kampala Convention).[100]

87. UNHCR welcomed the steps taken by Cameroon to ensure birth registration for disadvantaged children, but remained concerned about the low rate of birth registration for refugee newborns. UNHCR recommended that Cameroon pursue efforts to strengthen the national registration system, including the birth registration of refugees, and ensure the issuance of birth certificates to refugees. UNHCR also recommended that Cameroon implement a national campaign to prevent statelessness and that it establish mechanisms to issue birth certificates at reduced cost to refugee children.[101]

6. Stateless persons[102]

88. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination remained concerned about the large number of persons residing in the national territory who did not possess identity documents, a situation likely to create a risk of statelessness. The Committee recommended that Cameroon strengthen its efforts to issue official documents required for citizenship to all its citizens, and devote particular attention to the situation of the populations of the Bakassi Peninsula.[103] UNHCR raised similar concerns.[104]

Notes

[1] Tables containing information on the scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies for Cameroon will be available at www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/CMIndex.aspx.
[2] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/15, paras. 131.1–131.28.
[3] See CRC/C/CMR/CO/3-5 and Corr.1, para. 3.
[4] Ibid., para. 51.
[5] Ibid., para. 40. See also UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Cameroon, p. 2.
[6] See CEDAW/C/CMR/CO/4-5, para. 46.
[7] See CERD/C/CMR/CO/19-21, para. 20.
[8] See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Cameroon, p. 6.
[9] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/15, paras. 131.1–131.28.
[10] See CRC/C/CMR/CO/3-5 and Corr.1, para. 10.
[11] See CRC/C/CMR/CO/3-5 and Corr.1, para. 7.
[12] See A/HRC/25/56/Add.1, para. 98.
[13] See CRC/C/CMR/CO/3-5 and Corr.1, para. 5.
[14] See A/HRC/25/56/Add.1, para. 78.
[15] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/15, paras. 131.1, 131.31, 131.39, 131.47, 131.51, 131.69, 131.83–131.86, 131.130–131.131, 131.134, 131.140 and 131.165.
[16] See UNHCR submission, p. 11.

[17] Ibid., p. 10.
[18] See CRC/C/CMR/CO/3-5 and Corr.1, para. 14.
[19] Ibid.
[20] Ibid., paras. 14–15.
[21] See UNHCR submission, p. 11.
[22] See CERD/C/CMR/CO/19-21, para. 9.
[23] See CRC/C/CMR/CO/3-5 and Corr.1, para. 8.
[24] Ibid., para. 12.
[25] Ibid., para. 41.
[26] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/15, paras. 131.30 and 131.98.
[27] Press release of 17 November 2017, available at www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22409&LangID=E.
[28] Ibid.
[29] See CAT/C/CMR/CO/5, para. 10 b).
[30] See CCPR/C/CMR/CO/5, para. 27.
[31] See CAT/C/CMR/CO/5, para. 12 c).
[32] Ibid., para. 20 a).
[33] Ibid., para. 24 d).
[34] See CRC/C/CMR/CO/3-5 and Corr.1, paras. 46–47.
[35] See CERD/C/CMR/CO/19-21, para. 17.
[36] See CEDAW/C/CMR/CO/4-5, para. 10.
[37] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/15, paras. 131.65, 131.70, 131.114–131.115 and 131.139–131.141.
[38] See CCPR/C/CMR/CO/5, para. 42.
[39] See A/HRC/25/56/Add.1, para. 85.
[40] See CERD/C/CMR/CO/19-21, para. 11.
[41] See CEDAW/C/CMR/CO/4-5, paras. 14–15.
[42] See UNESCO submission, para. 8.
[43] Ibid., paras. 19–20.
[44] See UNESCO submission, para. 10.
[45] See UNESCO submission, para. 25.
[46] See CRC/C/CMR/CO/3-5 and Corr.1, para. 43.
[47] See CEDAW/C/CMR/CO/4-5, para. 20.
[48] See CEDAW/C/CMR/CO/4-5, para. 21.
[49] Ibid., paras. 38–39.
[50] See CERD/C/CMR/CO/19-21, para. 12.
[51] See CEDAW/C/CMR/CO/4-5, paras. 29–30.
[52] Ibid., paras. 28–29.
[53] See CRC/C/CMR/CO/3-5 and Corr.1, para. 37.
[54] See UNHCR submission, pp. 13–14.
[55] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/15, paras. 131.120–131.157.
[56] See CRC/C/CMR/CO/3-5 and Corr.1, para. 34.
[57] Ibid., para. 35.
[58] Ibid.
[59] See CEDAW/C/CMR/CO/4-5, paras. 32–33.
[60] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/15, paras. 131.118, 131.136, 131.158–131.159, 131.161–164 and 131.168.
[61] See CRC/C/CMR/CO/3-5 and Corr.1, para. 38.
[62] Ibid., para. 39.
[63] See CEDAW/C/CMR/CO/4-5, paras. 26–27.
[64] See UNHCR submission, p. 9.
[65] Ibid., p. 12.
[66] See UNESCO submission, para. 13.
[67] Ibid., para. 16.
[68] Ibid., para. 17.
[69] Ibid., para. 18.
[70] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/15, paras. 131.39, 131.44, 131.47–131.48, 131.51–131.53, 131.117, 131.121, 131.124, 131.130–131.132, 131.137, 131.142, 131.150 and 131.156.
[71] See CEDAW/C/CMR/CO/4-5, paras. 16–17. See also CEDAW/C/CMR/CO/4-5/Add.1, and a letter dated 26 April 2017 from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women addressed to the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, available at http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCEDAW%2fFUL%2fCMR%2f27288&

Lang=en.

[72] See CEDAW/C/CMR/CO/4-5, paras. 18–19. See also CEDAW/C/CMR/CO/4-5/Add.1, and a letter dated 26 April 2017 from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, available at http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCEDAW%2fFUL%2fCMR%2f27288&Lang=en.

[73] See CEDAW/C/CMR/CO/4-5, paras. 34–35.

[74] See UNHCR submission, p. 11.

[75] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/15, paras. 131.3–131.4, 131.21, 131.27, 131.55–131.58, 131.121, 131.133–131.137 and 131.169.

[76] See CRC/C/CMR/CO/3-5 and Corr.1, para. 13.

[77] Ibid., para. 18.

[78] Ibid., para. 19.

[79] Ibid., paras. 20–21.

[80] Ibid., para. 23.

[81] Ibid., para. 24.

[82] Ibid., para. 26.

[83] Ibid., para. 26.

[84] Ibid., para. 28.

[85] Ibid., paras. 30 and 32.

[86] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/15, paras. 131.122 and 131.165–131.166.

[87] See CRC/C/CMR/CO/3-5 and Corr.1, para. 33.

[88] See CCPR/C/CMR/CO/5, para. 46.

[89] See UNHCR submission, p. 15.

[90] See CRC/C/CMR/CO/3-5 and Corr.1, para. 42.

[91] See CERD/C/CMR/CO/19-21, paras. 14–15.

[92] Ibid., para. 16.

[93] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/15, paras. 131.11–131.13 and 131.23.

[94] See UNHCR submission, p. 5.

[95] Ibid.

[96] Ibid., p. 13.

[97] See CAT/C/CMR/CO/5, para. 18 d).

[98] See UNHCR submission, p. 5.

[99] See CERD/C/CMR/CO/19-21, para. 18.

[100] See CEDAW/C/CMR/CO/4-5, para. 37.

[101] See UNHCR submission, pp. 2–4 and 13.

[102] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/24/15, para. 131.23.

[103] See CERD/C/CMR/CO/19-21, para. 19.

[104] See UNHCR submission, pp. 2–3, 10–11 and 13.